

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 51

Introduced by Assembly Member Wood

March 23, 2015

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 51—Relative to West Nile Virus and Mosquito and Vector Control Awareness Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 51, as introduced, Wood. West Nile Virus and Mosquito and Vector Control Awareness Week.

This measure would declare the week of April 19, 2015, through April 25, 2015, as West Nile Virus and Mosquito and Vector Control Awareness Week.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, West Nile virus is a mosquito-borne disease that
2 can result in debilitating cases of meningitis and encephalitis and
3 death to humans, horses, avian species, and other wildlife; and

4 WHEREAS, In 2014, West Nile virus resulted in 29 human
5 deaths in California, a 93 percent increase over 2013, and 798
6 individual cases in 31 counties, nearly doubling the number of
7 cases during 2013, of which 543 developed neuroinvasive disease;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, The State Department of Public Health and the
10 federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention predict West
11 Nile virus will again pose a public health threat in California in
12 2015; and

13 WHEREAS, Adequately funded mosquito and vector control,
14 disease surveillance, and public awareness programs, coupled with

1 best management practices on public and private lands, are the
2 best ways to prevent outbreaks of West Nile virus and other
3 diseases borne by mosquitoes and other vectors; and

4 WHEREAS, Mosquitoes and other vectors, including, but not
5 limited to, ticks, Africanized honeybees, rats, fleas, and flies,
6 continue to be a source of human suffering, illness, and death, and
7 a public nuisance in California and around the world; and

8 WHEREAS, Excess numbers of mosquitoes and other vectors
9 spread diseases, reduce enjoyment of both public and private
10 outdoor living spaces, reduce property values, hinder outdoor work,
11 reduce livestock productivity, and have a negative impact on the
12 environment; and

13 WHEREAS, As a result of the threat mosquitos posed to
14 California's economic development and the health of its citizens,
15 the Legislature enacted, in 1915, 100 years ago, the Mosquito
16 Abatement Districts Act; and

17 WHEREAS, Professional mosquito and vector control based
18 on scientific research has made great advances in safely reducing
19 mosquito and vector populations and the diseases they transmit;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, Established mosquito- and vector-borne diseases,
22 such as plague, Lyme disease, flea-borne typhus, and encephalitis,
23 and new and emerging vector-borne diseases, such as hantavirus,
24 arenavirus, babesiosis, and ehrlichiosis, cause illness and
25 sometimes death every year in California; and

26 WHEREAS, Two invasive mosquito species in California, *Aedes*
27 *albopictus*, the Asian tiger mosquito, which was detected in
28 southern California in 2011, and *Aedes aegypti*, the yellow fever
29 mosquito, which was detected in central and northern California
30 in 2013, and in southern California in 2014, are posing new public
31 health threats due to their capability to transmit potentially deadly
32 or debilitating diseases, such as dengue, yellow fever, and
33 chikungunya, diseases that are not currently transmitted in
34 California, as well as other encephalitis-causing viruses; and

35 WHEREAS, Mosquito and vector control districts throughout
36 the State of California work closely with the United States
37 Environmental Protection Agency and the State Department of
38 Public Health to reduce pesticide risks to humans, animals, and
39 the environment while protecting human health from mosquito-
40 and vector-borne diseases and nuisance attacks; and

1 WHEREAS, Best management practices, emphasizing
2 nonchemical approaches, have been developed to guide mosquito
3 control that can significantly reduce mosquito populations for new
4 development and on state and private lands; and

5 WHEREAS, The State Department of Public Health maintains
6 information on how to eliminate risks from vectors at both
7 www.cdph.ca.gov and www.westnile.ca.gov, which the public is
8 encouraged to review; and

9 WHEREAS, The public's awareness of the health benefits
10 associated with safe, professionally applied mosquito and vector
11 control methods will support these efforts, as well as motivate the
12 state and the public to eliminate mosquito and vector breeding
13 sites on public and private property; and

14 WHEREAS, Educational programs have been developed to
15 include schools, civic groups, private industry, and government
16 agencies, in order to meet the public's need for information about
17 West Nile virus, other diseases, and mosquito and vector biology
18 and control; and

19 WHEREAS, Public awareness can result in reduced production
20 of mosquitoes and other vectors on residential, commercial, and
21 public lands by responsible parties, avoidance of the bites of
22 mosquitoes and other vectors when the risk of West Nile virus and
23 other disease transmission is high, detection of human cases of
24 mosquito- and vector-borne diseases that may otherwise be
25 misdiagnosed for lack of appropriate laboratory testing, and the
26 formation of mosquito or vector control agencies where needed;
27 and

28 WHEREAS, Public awareness can result in action to provide
29 adequate funding for existing mosquito and vector control agencies
30 or to create control agencies in areas where there are no existing
31 controls; and

32 WHEREAS, West Nile Virus and Mosquito and Vector Control
33 Awareness Week will increase the public's awareness of the threat
34 of West Nile virus and other diseases and the activities of the
35 various mosquito and vector research and control agencies working
36 to minimize the health threat within California, and will highlight
37 the educational programs currently available; and

38 WHEREAS, The Mosquito and Vector Control Association of
39 California has designated the week of April 19 to April 25, 2015,

1 inclusive, as West Nile Virus and Mosquito and Vector Control
2 Awareness Week in the State of California; now, therefore, be it
3 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
4 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby declares that the
5 week of April 19 to April 25, 2015, inclusive, be designated as
6 West Nile Virus and Mosquito and Vector Control Awareness
7 Week; and be it further
8 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit a copy
9 of this resolution to the Governor, the State Public Health Officer,
10 and the author for appropriate distribution.